

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 21, 2022
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Ellington called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL – Mr. Harris, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Lang, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

INVOCATION – Jeff Harris

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Callie Douglass, 5th grade Carson Elementary

CAUCUS - Mr. Marmie – **Motion to excuse Mr. Rath and Ms. Hottinger, second by Mr. Labutis, motion passed by acclamation**

MINUTES of March 7, 2022 - Motion by to approve the February 22, 2022 Newark City Council Minutes as presented and the reading be dispensed with in view of the fact each member of Council has received written summary of same **Motion by Mr. Labutis, second by Mr. Lang, passed by acclamation**

APPOINTMENTS

City Council – Appointing to the Charter Review Commission for 2022 Dustin Neely, Brad Chute, Cindy Young, Tim Waldron, Robert Speelman

Motion to approve appointments by Mr. Barker, second by Mr. Labutis, motion passed by acclamation

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance **Received & Filed without objection**

Service **Received & Filed without objection**

Street **Received & Filed without objection**

Personnel **Received & Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

City Auditor, Ryan T. Bubb – Operating report for period ending February 28, 2022

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator's Office – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending February 28, 2022

Judge David N. Stansbury – Licking County Municipal Court 2021 Annual Report

COMMUNICATIONS

There were none this meeting

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Ava Mortine, 6 East Postal Ave – We have two lots on East Postal. We have a serious feral cat problem in that neighborhood. The person who had Mr. Rine’s position before him knew all about it and chose to do nothing about it. So, now it’s a serious feral cat problem. I’d say anywhere from 15 to 20 cats and Mr. Rine I’ve tried to call a phone number for you and it rings busy all the time, so maybe I could get a different number for you so when we have problems in our neighborhood I can call you and at least leave a message. It has started to become a health issue too because of all the cat excrement, so we need to have the animal control person come and start trapping these cats and taking them to the pound, or I heard there’s a sanctuary in Coshocton that takes feral cats. We definitely need to get them out of there, its staring to damage our property, so something needs to be done about the feral cats in our neighborhood. I would appreciate that. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There were none this meeting

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Houser, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rine

22-11 AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A TWELVE (12) FOOT WIDE ALLEY AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT OF WEST MAIN STREET ADDITION, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 100 OF THE LICKING COUNTY PLAT RECORDS; SAID ALLEY IS LOCATED NORTH OF WEST MAIN STREET, RUNNING EAST FROM NORTH 23rd STREET.

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Ms. Bline

22-12 AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING CERTAIN TERRITORY, GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING 0.948 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED AT 137 NORTH VERNON AVENUE IN NEWTON TOWNSHIP, TO THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

By: Mr. Lang, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline

22-13 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE POSITION CLASSIFICATION, PAY RANGE AND DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION TABLES OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, DIVISION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER, BY CREATING THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF UTILITIES ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES MANAGER AND MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN/OPERATOR AND ELIMINATING THE POSITIONS OF PROJECT ENGINEER, UTILITY OPERATOR AND SECRETARY 1 WITHIN THE DIVISION AND SETTING THE COMPENSATION THEREFORE, AND ESTABLISHING ALL OTHER POSITIONS WITHIN THE DIVISION.

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Mr. Harris, Ms. Hottinger, Ms. Bline, Mr. Rine

22-15 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt, second by Mr. Lang, motion passed 8-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Hottinger, Ms. Bline

22-16 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWARK TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FOR AN AWARD OF FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 FUNDING UNDER THE OHIO EMS TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt, second by Ms. Bline, motion passed 8-0

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Hottinger, Ms. Bline

22-19 APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$60,000.00 -City Website Project)

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 8-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

22-20 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ((\$25,838.16 -Check rec'd from State of Ohio for Continuing Police Training Funds for 2022)

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie, Ms. Bline

22-21 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO SELL CERTAIN PROPERTY, WITHOUT BIDDING, OWNED BY THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO THE CITY OF HEATH, OHIO AND DECLARING THAT SUCH PROPERTY IS NO LONGER NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE.

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

By: Mr. Rath, Mr. Barker, Mr. Marmie

22-22 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY NOW OWNED BY THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO NEWARK DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AS ITS AGENT FOR INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL, DISTRIBUTION, AND RESEARCH

Held 2 weeks until 4-4-22

By: Mr. Marmie, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

22-23 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$40,200 -Payout for retiring Probation Officer Vanessa Stalnaker)

Motion by Mr. Marmie to waive the two day reading rule, second by Mr. Barker

Mr. Marmie – This is a payout we need to expedite in order to get the funds to the employee.

Motion passed 8-0

Motion by Mr. Marmie to adopt second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 8-0

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Chris Gargus, 103 Swainford Dr., Heath, Oh – I am here to represent a group called Champions Network. We've been inception since 2016, we meet every week and are helping the addicted as well as the homeless to get off the streets and get jobs and get their families back. We've been doing this approximately six years now and have administered to over 4,000 people. The last survey I ran, 54% of men that have went through this program are still successful, still sober and still productive citizens and that's amazing to me, this is just meeting once a week. The 65% of the women, in the same boat, they are clean and sober and doing really well and have become very effective citizens. We see it every week and they are beautiful people and it's really fun to watch this. So, what's happened with this over the years, our initial goal was to do a residential program where guys could go and stay and really get it right. In order to do that we had to do this Champions Network first so people would know who we are. We're actually an affiliate of The Refuge, which is an addiction ministry in Columbus, Ohio. It's a very effective ministry, some of their numbers are very outstanding and if you look at the Franklin County numbers, they are saving the average 180% investment on return, which is amazing. The average person who goes through The Refuge it costs \$53,000 to send them through it, but the average person on the street it cost the City \$139,00 a year. So, if you look at that return on investment, it's almost 200%. So, we're bringing that here to Licking County. We have a 25 acre property out there on Marne Road by Longaberger Golf Course, it's an old church camp. We've put \$45,000 of capital into that in the last few years, we're literally rebuilding the facility from bottom to top and we should be ready to go in the summer time. We will have a 15 bed facility for men and eventually we will have a facility for women as well. We're going to start out as phase I with The Refuge, in conjunction with them and they are going to help us staff it, which is amazing. The Refuge is very helpful. Some of their other numbers they put out, 66% of the guys that go through Refuge do not relapse after 3 years, that's a pretty good total. 80% of them are continuing to desire to stay that way. 92% of them are reporting to continue as full time employment, 86% of them have housing stability and these are guys who had nothing. Most of these guys who came in were homeless, so if you are looking at the numbers, this is pretty amazing. 94% of them report being secure and being able to take care of their families, 87% are reporting reliable transportation, so you can see why we are wanting to use their system, because it works. And we honestly believe that within the next 5 years you are going

to see a major change in addiction in this town. That's pretty much what I wanted to say. I just wanted everyone to know we are coming here and will hopefully be in this summer.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – I just want to comment on the cat issue. It's not a humane issue, so the humane agent for the City of Newark cannot do anything about those cats, however, Joanna Reen was VET at Refugee Canyon. She has a Licking County track, neuter, release and she's trying to de-populate the Licking County feral cat problem and you can get on a wait list for her to come to your neighborhood. She's at Refugee Canyon Veterinary Services, and you can give her a call.

Mr. Harris – I need to call a Service Committee Meeting for April 4th.

Mr. Houser – Chris , I just want to thank you for coming in, I think that's something for the City that is really needed.

Mr. Labutis – I just wanted to remind everyone of Granville Christian Academy's fund raiser on Friday, April 8th, at the Fifth Street gym, you can purchase tickets for that online at granvilleca.org.

Mr. Lang – Mr. Gargus thank you for coming in and sharing the good news. I'm familiar with The Refuge and I think it's going to be a great facility coming out to Newark. Resolution 22-15 on body camera funding, I'm glad to see the Administration pursuing additional funding for body cameras for our Police Force, it's much needed and I'm grateful to get that done. Then last, certainly not least, I wanted to thank Mrs. Chapman's third grade class over at Blessed Sacrament for inviting me over to speak to them today. I had a real fun time going through and learning about City Council and everything we do here at the City. Mr. Cost, you'll be happy to know that we did again pass a Resolution to allow for pizza, donuts and ice cream for Friday lunch, with great deal of debate, it did not disappoint at all. So, I had a lot of fun and really wanted to thank the class for having me in.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee Meeting for April 4th.

Mr. Rine – I'd like to congratulate my sister, Brooke Spangler for winning the Citizen of The Month for Liberty, she's in 7th grade. Regarding the cat problem, I'm not sure why my number is doing that. My email is on there, my address, so snail mail, I will look into it and I appreciate you bringing that to my attention.

Ms. Bline – There are some ladies in my neighborhood that are active with the feral cats working with Dr. Reen and she's an amazing lady, so if you see any cat with a notch in it's ear, it's been to the Dr. I would like to the Blessed Sacrament, I was over to Mrs. Chapmans class too, pretty fun, we had a great time. I'd like to than Joe Paul and his crew. When these guys come, they're coming out of care and they offer so many resources to help and so if you see him coming in your neighborhood, he's there to help and he's a really great guy and he cares! I just appreciate their help. And I would like to thank David Rhodes and Jeff Vandine for hanging lights along Raccoon Creek, let there be light and I'm really thankful for that. Again, thank you Chris for coming.

President Ellington – I'd just like to thank everyone for coming tonight, we appreciate it. It's your City Council so, come and be heard.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lang, second by Mr. Harris, passed by acclamation

Don Ellington , President of Council